

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-38. (Canceled).

39. (New) A vehicle safety system for providing a minimum safe clearance distance between a passenger and a front air-bag arrangement in a vehicle, comprising:

a position determining arrangement to determine distance information for a distance between a passenger in a front seat arrangement of the vehicle and the front air-bag arrangement of the vehicle and to provide distance information, the front seat arrangement being movable within the vehicle by a front seat position adjusting arrangement that allows the front seat arrangement to move relative to the front air-bag arrangement at least between the minimum safe clearance position and a rearward position, the minimum safe clearance position providing the minimum safe clearance distance between the passenger in the front seat arrangement and the front air-bag arrangement, displacement of the front seat arrangement toward the rearward position increasing a distance between the front seat arrangement and the front air-bag arrangement;

wherein the front air-bag arrangement is fixedly positioned with respect to one of a steering wheel assembly for a driver passenger and a dashboard arrangement for a non-driver passenger, and the front seat arrangement is movable to the minimum safe clearance position based on the distance information.

40. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 39, further comprising:

a pedal adjusting arrangement to move at least one pedal between a first position and a second position, the at least one pedal being positioned in a passenger compartment forward of the front seat arrangement.

41. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 40, wherein the at least one pedal includes a plurality of pedals, and when one of the plurality of pedals is moved, the plurality of pedals moves together, so as to maintain a predetermined positioning of each of the plurality of pedals relative to one another.

42. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 40, wherein the first position and the second position are separated by a distance of about six inches.

43. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 41, wherein the front-seat arrangement and the pedal adjusting arrangement are operated so that the passenger may operate the at least one pedal while seated at the minimum safe clearance position.

44. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 39, wherein the distance determining arrangement includes a distance sensor to obtain a measure of the distance between the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.

45. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 39, further comprising: another position determining arrangement to determine a position corresponding to an eye-level height of the passenger.

46. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 39, wherein the front air-bag is mounted in a steering wheel of the vehicle.

47. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 40, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement includes a positioning arrangement that is movable to move the at least one pedal between the first position and the second position.

48. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 47, wherein the first position and the second position are separated by a distance of about six inches.

49. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 47, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement is operable to move the at least one pedal linearly between the first position and the second position.

50. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 40, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement is operable to move the at least one pedal linearly between the first position and the second position.

51. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 50, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement

includes a positioning arrangement that is movable to move the at least one pedal between the first position and the second position.

52. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 51, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement is operable to move the at least one pedal linearly between the first position and the second position.

53. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 52, wherein the first position and the second position are separated by a distance of about six inches.

54. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 53, wherein the at least one pedal includes a plurality of pedals, and when one of the plurality of pedals is moved, the plurality of pedals moves together, so as to maintain a predetermined positioning of each of the plurality of pedals relative to one another.

55. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 54, wherein the distance determining arrangement includes a distance sensor to obtain a measure of the distance between the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.

56. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 55, further comprising: another position determining arrangement to determine a position corresponding to an eye-level height of the passenger.

57. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 56, wherein the front air-bag is mounted in a steering wheel of the vehicle.

58. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 57, wherein the minimum safe clearance position provides a distance of about 10 inches between a portion of a chest of the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.

59. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 58, wherein the front-seat arrangement and the pedal adjusting arrangement are operated so that the passenger may operate the at least one

pedal while seated at the minimum safe clearance position.

60. (New) A method of providing a minimum safe clearance distance between an air-bag arrangement and a passenger in a vehicle, which includes a front-seat arrangement that is movable with respect to the front air-bag arrangement, the method comprising:

determining distance information for a distance between a passenger in a front seat arrangement of the vehicle and the front air-bag arrangement of the vehicle, the front seat arrangement being movable within the vehicle by a front seat position adjusting arrangement that allows the front seat arrangement to move relative to the front air-bag arrangement at least between a minimum safe clearance position and a rearward position, the minimum safe clearance position providing the minimum safe clearance distance between the passenger in the front seat arrangement and the front air-bag arrangement, displacement of the front seat arrangement toward the rearward position increasing a distance between the front seat arrangement and the front air-bag arrangement;

wherein the front air-bag arrangement is fixedly positioned with respect to one of a steering wheel assembly for a driver passenger and a dashboard arrangement for a non-driver passenger, and the front seat arrangement is movable to the minimum safe clearance position based on the distance information.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, further comprising:

moving at least one pedal between a first position and a second position using a pedal adjusting arrangement, the at least one pedal being positioned in a passenger compartment forward of the front seat arrangement.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the at least one pedal includes a plurality of pedals, and when one of the plurality of pedals is moved, the plurality of pedals moves together, so as to maintain a predetermined positioning of each of the plurality of pedals relative to one another.

63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the first position and the second position are separated by a distance of about six inches.

64. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the front-seat arrangement and the pedal adjusting arrangement are operated so that the passenger may operate the at least one pedal while seated at the minimum safe clearance position.
65. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the distance information is determined using a distance sensor to obtain a measure of the distance between the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.
66. (New) The method of claim 60, further comprising: determining a position corresponding to an eye-level height of the passenger.
67. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the front air-bag is mounted in a steering wheel of the vehicle.
68. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement includes a positioning arrangement that is movable to move the at least one pedal between the first position and the second position.
69. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the first position and the second position are separated by a distance of about six inches.
70. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement is operable to move the at least one pedal linearly between the first position and the second position.
71. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement is operable to move the at least one pedal linearly between the first position and the second position.
72. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement includes a positioning arrangement that is movable to move the at least one pedal between the first position and the second position.
73. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement is operable to

move the at least one pedal linearly between the first position and the second position.

74. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein the first position and the second position are separated by a distance of about six inches.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the at least one pedal includes a plurality of pedals, and when one of the plurality of pedals is moved, the plurality of pedals moves together, so as to maintain a predetermined positioning of each of the plurality of pedals relative to one another.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the distance information is obtained using a distance sensor to obtain a measure of the distance between the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, further comprising: determining a position corresponding to an eye-level height of the passenger.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the front air-bag is mounted in a steering wheel of the vehicle.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the minimum safe clearance position provides a distance of about 10 inches between a portion of a chest of the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.

80. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the front-seat arrangement and the pedal adjusting arrangement are operated so that the passenger may operate the at least one pedal while seated at the minimum safe clearance position.

81. (New) A vehicle safety system for providing a minimum safe clearance distance between a passenger and a front air-bag arrangement in a vehicle, comprising:

a position determining arrangement to determine distance information for a distance between a passenger in a front seat arrangement of the vehicle and the front air-bag

arrangement of the vehicle and to provide distance information, the front seat arrangement being movable within the vehicle by a front seat position adjusting arrangement that allows the front seat arrangement to move relative to the front air-bag arrangement at least between the minimum safe clearance position and a rearward position, the minimum safe clearance position providing the minimum safe clearance distance between the passenger in the front seat arrangement and the front air-bag arrangement, displacement of the front seat arrangement toward the rearward position increasing a distance between the front seat arrangement and the front air-bag arrangement; and

a pedal adjusting arrangement to move at least one pedal between a first position and a second position, the at least one pedal being positioned in a passenger compartment forward of the front seat arrangement;

wherein the front air-bag arrangement is fixedly positioned with respect to one of a steering wheel assembly for a driver passenger and a dashboard arrangement for a non-driver passenger, and the front seat arrangement is movable to the minimum safe clearance position based on the distance information, and

wherein the front-seat arrangement and the pedal adjusting arrangement are operated so that the passenger may operate the at least one pedal while seated at the minimum safe clearance position.

82. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 81, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement includes a positioning arrangement that is movable to move the at least one pedal between the first position and the second position.

83. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 81, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement is operable to move the at least one pedal linearly between the first position and the second position.

84. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 83, wherein the first position and the second position are separated by a distance of about six inches.

85. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 84, wherein the at least one pedal includes a plurality of pedals, and when one of the plurality of pedals is moved, the plurality of pedals

moves together, so as to maintain a predetermined positioning of each of the plurality of pedals relative to one another.

86. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 81, wherein the distance determining arrangement includes a distance sensor to obtain a measure of the distance between the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.

87. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 81, further comprising: another position determining arrangement to determine a position corresponding to an eye-level height of the passenger.

88. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 81, wherein the front air-bag is mounted in a steering wheel of the vehicle.

89. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 81, wherein the minimum safe clearance position provides a distance of about 10 inches between a portion of a chest of the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.

90. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 86, wherein the front air-bag arrangement is controllable to operate in a reduced clearance mode if the passenger moves at least part of the body beyond the minimum safe clearance position, based on the measure of the distance between the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.

91. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 90, wherein the pedal adjusting arrangement is operable to move the at least one pedal linearly between the first position and the second position.

92. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 91, wherein the first position and the second position are separated by a distance of about six inches.

93. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 92, wherein the at least one pedal includes a plurality of pedals, and when one of the plurality of pedals is moved, the plurality of pedals

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moves together, so as to maintain a predetermined positioning of each of the plurality of pedals relative to one another.

94. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 93, wherein the distance determining arrangement includes a distance sensor to obtain a measure of the distance between the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.

95. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 94, further comprising: another position determining arrangement to determine a position corresponding to an eye-level height of the passenger.

96. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 95, wherein the front air-bag is mounted in a steering wheel of the vehicle.

97. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 96, wherein the minimum safe clearance position provides a distance of about 10 inches between a portion of a chest of the passenger and the front air-bag arrangement.

98. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 90, wherein the passenger is alerted if a safety threat is posed to the passenger when the passenger moves at least part of the body beyond the minimum safe clearance.

99. (New) The vehicle safety system of claim 39, wherein the passenger is alerted if a safety threat is posed to the passenger when the passenger moves at least part of the body beyond the minimum safe clearance.

100. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the passenger is alerted if a safety threat is posed to the passenger when the passenger moves at least part of the body beyond the minimum safe clearance.